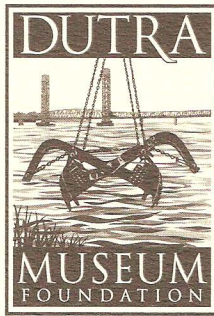


October 21, 2011

Michael Machado  
Delta Protection Commission  
P.O. Box 530  
Walnut Grove, California 95690



Dear Mr. Machado,

The Dutra Museum Foundation is writing to express support for a National Heritage Area (NHA) designation in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Foundation recognizes a NHA in the Delta as a valuable tool to assist with public education and preservation of the Delta's history; and a way to attract more visitors to the Delta's historical sites, which could have economic benefits.

The Dutra family has been involved in the dredging business since 1904, and levee maintenance by the Dutra Group continues to play a vital role in protecting the Delta's rich farmland from flooding. The Dutra Museum of Dredging in Rio Vista, contains a private collection of materials that interpret the history of sidedraft clamshell dredging in the Delta. Items in our collection include historic photographs, log books, maps, antique tools and artifacts, scale models of dredges and more.

We believe that a Delta NHA can assist our mission of educating and promoting an understanding of the history of dredging, the value of developing and reclaiming the California Delta and the significant role the Dutra Group and the Dutra family has played within this field. We appreciate that one of the proposed themes for the Delta NHA is about Delta reclamation and discusses the important role that the sidedraft clamshell dredge played not just in the Delta, but in other parts of the world as well.

The Delta NHA is an approach to heritage preservation that is driven by the local community, and therefore public-private partnerships are crucial to support historic preservation and education projects. If Delta NHA designation does occur, the Dutra Museum Foundation could potentially serve as partners with the management entity on projects related to preservation and interpretation of the history of dredging in the Delta. Depending on the availability of Foundation members, we could offer technical and advisory assistance on projects related to the promotion and marketing of sites related to dredging history, and the development of educational materials about the topic.

Once again, the Dutra Museum Foundation expresses strong support for a Delta NHA and looks forward to being involved with NHA activities and projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads 'Janet Bennett'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J'.

Janet Bennett and Patty Bruce  
Co-Directors